DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 193 547 CG 014 698

AUTHOR Mathes, Eugene W.: And Others
TITLE How Many Ways Do I Love Thee? Three.
PUB DATE May 80
NOTE 9p.: Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association (52nd, St. Louis, MO, May 1-3, 1980). Best copy available.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adults: Behavioral Science Research: *Dating (Social): *Emotional Response: *Friendship: *Interpersonal Attraction: Mate Selection: *Personality Traits: Rating Scales: Sex Differences: Sexuality

ABSTRACT

Most empirical data suggest that interpersonal attraction is caused by a single emotion known by different names (liking, romantic love, jealousy). Since all of these studies used dating or married couples as subjects, it is possible that liking, romantic love, and jealousy are separate emotions which converge only when their target is a dating partner or spouse. Sixty-seven dating couples filled out liking, romantic love, jealousy, and sexual attraction scales for three target persons: same-sex friend, opposite-sex friend, and dating partner. Results suggest that the liking and romantic love scales measure the same emotion. Liking, romantic love and jealousy were found to be personality traits, present or absent in individuals regardless of target person. Three different interpersonal attraction emotions were identified, and found to converge only when their target was a dating partner: liking-romantic love, jealousy, and sexual attraction.
(Author/NRB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED193547

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

How Many Ways Do I Love Thee? Three.

Eugene W. Mathes, John T. Phillips,

Julie Skowron, William E. Dick III,

and

Deborah E. Beaumont

Western Illinois University

CG 014698

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Eugene W. Mathes

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

How Many Ways Do I Love Thee? Three.

Why are individuals attracted to each other? Is it due to a number of different emotions--liking, romantic love, jealousy, lust and so forth--or a single emotion known by different names? Theoretical answers to this question seem to favor the multiple emotion hypothesis. Maslow (1970) suggests that there are two kinds of interpersonal attraction: being love and deficiency love. Fromm (1974) writes about mother love, father love, brotherly love, self love, love for God, and erotic love and subdivides the latter category into symbiotic and mature love. Lee (1973) suggests that there are three primary loves (eros, ludus, and storge), three compound loves (mania, pragma, and agape), and three mixtures (ludic eros, storgic ludus, and storgic eros). Unfortunately, although these different theorists all suggest that interpersonal attraction is caused by many different types of emotions, there appears to be little convergence among these different typologies.

Empirical work has also attempted to show that interpersonal attraction is composed of a number of different emotions. Rubin (1973) used factor analysis to construct scales measuring liking and romantic love. However, when he had dating couples fill out the two scales he found that for women they correlated .39 and that for men they correlated .60. These results suggest that the two emotions are different for women but not men.

Subsequent research which involved correlating liking and romantic love scores with various behavioral measures failed to find differential predictive validity for the two scales (Dion & Dion, 1976). These data also suggest that liking and romantic love are simply different names for the same emotion.

Mathes and Severa (1977) constructed a jealousy scale and then had dating couples fill out the jealousy measure and Rubin's liking and love scales. For men jealousy correlated .28 with liking and .47 with romantic love and for

women the correlations were .15 (n.s) and .41. Although jealousy and liking appear to be different, the correlations between jealousy and romantic love were so high that Rubin, in a review of the research, suggested that jealousy may simply be an aspect of romantic love.

Thus most of the empirical data seems to suggest that interpersonal attraction is caused by a single emotion known by different names--liking, romantic love, and possibly jealousy.

However, one of the limitations of the studies reported above is that all of them used dating or married couples as subjects. This may have caused spurious results. It may be that liking and romantic love and jealousy and romantic love converge only when their target is a dating partner or spouse. If subjects were asked to fill out liking, romantic love, and jealousy scales for same or opposite sex friends the high correlations might disappear. The purpose of this research was to test this reasoning. Subjects filled out liking, romantic love, and jealousy scales for three different target persons: same sex friend, opposite sex friend, and dating partner. It was hypothesized that the three scales would only converge when the target person was a dating partner.

To expand the generality of the results of this study another scale, a measure of sexual attraction, was also included. It was hypothesized that sexual attraction would converge with liking, romantic love, and jealousy when the target was a dating partner but not when the target was a same or opposite sex friend.

Method

Subjects

Sixty-seven dating couples participated in this study. At least one member of each pair was an introductory psychology student at Western Illinois University and received points toward his or her final grade for participating.

Procedure

Subjects filled out liking, romantic love, jealousy, and sexual attraction scales for three target persons: same sex friend, opposite sex friend and dating partner. To facilitate honest responding the men sat on one side of a large auditorium while filling out the questionnaires and the women sat on the other side. Subjects were also assured that their responses would not be shown to their partners except if the couple requested to see their results together.

Results

Since all of the scales used in this study had been developed for use with dating partners or spouses, the first step in the data analysis was to determine whether reliable results were obtained when the scales were used with same and opposite sex friend as target. To accomplish this internal consistency reliabilities using the Kunder-Richardson formula were computed for all 12 of the emotion-target measures. Since all of these reliabilities were .80 or greater except for the sexual attraction--same sex friend measure for men which had a reliability of .56, it was concluded that all of the emotion-target measures were reliable, though the accuracy of the sexual attraction-same sex friend measure was not too good for men.

All of these measures were then factor analyzed along with sex as a dummy variable. Two predictions were made. First, a dating partner factor would be found with the following scales loading on it: liking-dating partner, romantic love-dating partner, jealousy-dating partner and sexual attraction-dating partner. Second, no multiple emotion factors would be found. That is, no factors composed of all of the measures of two or more emotions would be found.

The results of the factor analysis are found in Table 1. As can be seen, the first prediction was supported. Factor 4 represents the dating partner factor. The second prediction, however, was not supported. Factor 1 is composed of all of the liking and romantic love measures.

Insert Table 1 about here

Discussion

The factor which accounted for the most variance (Factor 1) appears to be a liking-romantic love factor with all of the liking and romantic love scales, regardless of target, loading .30 or greater on it. These results suggest that the liking and romantic love scales measure the same emotion. Liking and romantic love are simply different names for the same emotion. Although contrary to the hypothesis tested in this study, the results are consistent with earlier studies employing these two scales. The results also suggest that liking-romantic love is a personality trait. Some individuals appear to be liking-loving persons regardless of target person (that is, across situations) while other individuals are the opposite.

The second factor appears to be a jealousy factor with all three of the jealousy measures, regardless of target, loading .30 or greater on it. This factor also appears to represent a personality trait. Some individuals appear to be jealous regardless of target person (that is, across situations) while other individuals are the opposite.

The third factor appears to be a sex differences factor with the dummy variable, sex, loading .74 on it. Other measures loading .30 or greater on this factor include sexual attraction-opposite sex friend, liking-dating partner (negatively) and romantic love-same sex friend (negatively). The men were more sexually attracted to their opposite sex friends than the women, the women liked their dating partners more than the men, and the women loved their same sex friends more than the men.

The fourth factor is the predicted dating partner factor with liking-dating partner, romantic love-dating partner, jealousy-dating partner, and

sexual attraction-dating partner all loading .30 or greater on it. When the target individual is the dating partner, liking, romantic love, jealousy, and sexual attraction all converge. This factor represents a situational factor in contrast to the two trait factors, (liking-romantic love and jealousy) found earlier. Across emotions subjects tended to respond to their dating partner with similar intensities.

Summarizing, the results of this study suggest that there are three different interpersonal attraction emotions, liking-romantic love, jealousy, and sexual attraction which only converge when their target is a dating partner.

References

Dion, K. L., & Dion, K. K. Love, liking, and trust in heterosexual relationships. Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 1979, 2, 187-190.

Fromm, E. The art of loving. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.

Lee, J. A. Colours of love: An exploration of the ways of loving. Toronto: New Press, 1973.

Maslow, A. H. Motivation and personality. (2nd ed.) New York: Harper & Row, 1970.

Mathes, E. W., & Severa, N. Jealousy, romantic love, and liking. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association held in Chicago, May, 1977.

Rubin, Z. Liking and loving. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1973.

Table 1

Factor Matrix for Emotion-Target Measures

Measures	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
Sex (M, F)	-.25	.03	.74	.15
Love, Same Sex Friend	.70	.06	-.31	-.07
Love, Opposite Sex Friend	.33	-.05	.03	-.05
Love, Dating Partner	.44	.06	-.22	.69
Like, Same Sex Friend	.73	-.12	-.09	.01
Like, Opposite Sex Friend	.49	-.10	-.04	.11
Like, Dating Partner	.42	-.19	-.34	.35
Jealousy, Same Sex Friend	-.17	.66	.10	.09
Jealousy, Opposite Sex Friend	-.06	.87	.28	.03
Jealousy, Dating Partner	-.08	.56	-.15	.51
Sexual Attraction, Same Sex Friend	.12	-.04	-.01	-.25
Sexual Attraction, Opposite Sex Friend	.00	.21	.75	-.06
Sexual Attraction, Dating Partner	.09	.08	.25	.72